

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Logistics Operations School
Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools
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RLO

D109

STUDENT OUTLINE

COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT (CSS) ORGANIZATIONS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Terminal Learning Objective: Given an operation, commander's guidance, the requirement to provide CSS, access to automated information systems (AIS), and the references, conduct combat service support (CSS) planning, to ensure logistical support requirements are appropriately identified. (0402.08.01)

2. Enabling Learning Objectives:

a. Given the references, operational plan, commander's guidance, and a written test, identify CSS capabilities within the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), per the references. (0402.08.01j)

(1) The three permanently structured CSS organizations within the MEF.

(2) The additional sources of CSS within the MEF.

(3) The three task organized CSS elements within the MAGTF.

b. Given the references, operational plan, commander's guidance, and a written test, identify the seven types of CSS installations per the references. (0402.08.01k)

c. Given the references, operational plan, commander's guidance, and a written test, explain the process of task organizing CSS assets, per the references. (0402.08.01f)

(1) Identify the definition of a force list.

(2) Identify the definition of a troop list.

(3) Identify the considerations for task organizing CSS elements.

1. **GENERAL**. The MAGTF commander utilizes the Combat Service Support Elements (CSSE) to supplement the MAGTFs internal CSS capabilities by using centralized, permanently structured CSS units or decentralized, task-organized CSS elements. The MAGTF commander decides to employ these units based upon their comparative strengths and weaknesses and whether the commander needs efficiency or responsiveness or both. The permanently structured unit normally can provide efficiency and the task-organized unit provides responsiveness. The most important thing is that the effective use of both types of organizations is the key to success.

2. **PERMANENT ORGANIZATIONS**. Permanent organizations are established by Tables of Organization, (T/Os), and Tables of Equipment (T/Es). Each unit's T/O establishes its structure and mission. Its T/E establishes the quantity and type of equipment it is authorized to hold to perform its assigned mission. Aviation squadrons are also authorized equipment identified in the table of basic allowances and individual material readiness lists. By means of these allowance documents, virtually all organizations of battalion and squadron size or larger possess certain permanent, organic CSS capabilities. However, the limited nature of these capabilities necessitates support from external CSS agencies on a regular basis.

a. Force Service Support Group (FSSG). The FSSG is a composite grouping of functional components which provides CSS beyond the organic capability of supported units to all elements of the MEF. The FSSG is the embodiment of a fundamental principle - economy of operations through centralization of CSS resources and decentralization in executing CSS tasks. Although it has eight permanent battalions, task organizations from those battalions normally support MEF operations over a large geographic area. The FSSG consists of eight permanent battalions as follows:

(1) Headquarters and Service Battalion (H&S Bn). The H&S Bn provides command and control, administration, services, communications, and security support to the FSSG. Also H&S Bn provides coordination of services support beyond supported unit organic capabilities to supported units within MAGTFs.

(2) Maintenance Battalion (MaintBn). The Maintenance Battalion provides intermediate (3d and 4th echelon) maintenance support for Marine Corps furnished tactical ordnance, engineering, motor transport, and communications-electronics equipment of the MEF.

(3) Supply Battalion (SupBn). Provides supply support, less bulk fuel and Navy funded stock/programs, for the sustainment of MAGTF operations. Provides maintenance support for class VIII equipment by maintaining medical and dental supplies included in Authorized Medical and Dental Allowance Lists (AMAL and ADAL).

(4) Engineer Support Battalion (ESBn). Provides engineering support to the MEF, to include survivability, counter mobility and mobility enhancements, and explosive ordnance disposal; and general support incident to the handling, storage, and distribution of bulk class I and bulk class III and III(A).

(5) Transportation Support Battalion (TSBn). Provides transportation support to include support of the ship-to-shore movement during amphibious operations; and terminal operations during subsequent operations, to permit required throughput of supplies, equipment, and personnel for sustainment in support of MEF operations. As well as medium and heavy-lift transportation support for throughput and sustainment operations of the MEF.

(6) Medical Battalion (MedBn). Provides medical support to the MEF in order to sustain the combat effort. Primarily this includes health care through the 2d echelon of medical care, to include initial resuscitative care, resuscitative surgery, and the temporary hospitalization of casualties to the MEF.

(7) Dental Battalion (DenBn). Provides dental health care to the MEF as well as augment the Medical Battalion.

b. Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG). The MWSG consists of a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS) and four Marine Wing Support Squadrons (MWSS). The H&HS serves as administrators for the group staff. The MWSG provides aviation ground support and selected CSS to wing units via four MWSS's. The types of CSS provided include: essential engineering services, motor transport support (internal to air base operations), messing facilities, routine and emergency

sick call, and security and law enforcement services. Two of the four MWSS's are configured to support fixed-wing operations and two are configured to support rotary-wing operations.

c. Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) FW and RW. The MALS provides aviation logistics support for the subordinate units of the MAG. The squadron is organized as a core unit capable of absorbing groups of augmentees associated with specific aircraft types and squadrons. This allows the squadron to provide logistical support to an ACE with a variety of aircraft configurations. The squadron operates using the Navy Supply System and dollars (blue money).

d. Additional sources of CSS

(1) Marine Division. The Division has limited sources of CSS for the MAGTF. They include:

(a) Headquarters Battalion (HqBn)

1. The Military Police Company provides military police support to the combat elements of the Division. The company also provides traffic control, straggler control, a temporary detention facility, and an Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW) collecting point.

2. The Truck Company provides general motor transport support to the Division.

(b) Combat Engineer Battalion (CEBn). The CEBn provides close combat engineer support to the Division. The type of support provided may be either combat support or CSS. Though organized as combat support units, the functions provided by these units can satisfy CSS requirements.

3. TASK ORGANIZED CSS ORGANIZATIONS. A task organized CSSE is a unit tailored to meet specific support requirements. Task organization is a quantitative and qualitative process used to best structure assets to support a specific mission and concept of operations. The CSSE commander uses task organization as his primary tool for allocation and control of his capabilities.

a. Decentralization characterizes the control and coordination of task-organized CSS units. Although it may sacrifice a degree of efficiency, decentralization emphasizes

mission-oriented organization and enhances the responsiveness and overall effectiveness of CSS units to supported units.

b. Types of CSS Organizations. The size and composition of the CSSE is directly related to the mission, size, and composition of the MAGTF supported. The organizational structure of a CSSE is generally similar to the functional lines of the FSSG. The CSSE is typically tailored to provide CSS to elements of the MAGTF which is beyond their organic capability. The CSSE is formed from detachments, units, or organizations of the FSSG. Non-FSSG CSS units may be grouped in the CSSE for organizational efficiency even though they may support only one of the major elements of the MAGTF. Combat and combat support assets may also be attached to, or placed in direct support of the CSSE to satisfy security requirements. There are three basic task-organized CSS elements.

(1) MEU Service Support Group (MSSG). The MSSG is the task-organized CSSE of the MEU and is task organized for each specific deployment. The MSSG draws its personnel and equipment from the permanent battalions of the FSSG. The MSSG has the same numeric designation as that of the MEU it supports.

(2) Combat Service Support Detachment (CSSD). A separate task organization of combat service support assets formed to provide any range or combination of CSS functions to the MAGTF or designated subordinate elements. There are no CSSD headquarters nucleus staffs provided for in the FSSG T/O; instead, the FSSG normally draws the command and control structure for the CSSD from one or more of the eight permanent battalions.

(3) Landing Force Support Party (LFSP). The LFSP is a task organization peculiar to amphibious operations. It is a temporary task organization composed of Navy and Marine Corps elements of the landing force (LF) which provides landing support and initial CSS to the LF. The nucleus for this task organization is the Landing Support Battalion, FSSG. Its mission is to support the landing and movement of troops, equipment, and supplies across the beaches and into helicopter landing zones. The organization and mission of the LF dictate the structure of the LFSP. The LFSP is normally disestablished when the CSSE phases ashore.

c. Temporary Task Organized Units

(1) General. A temporary task organized unit is formed to provide CSS for a limited time. Upon completion of its mission the temporary task organized unit is normally disestablished.

4. CSS INSTALLATIONS. Operational logistic installations are the source of most combat service support for the MAGTF. These installations are physical locations either aboard ship or ashore. Their number, location, and specific capabilities are dictated by the concept of combat service support which, in turn, is based on the MAGTF mission and concept of operations. The MAGTF's concept of operations must address the requirement to defend and protect these installations and facilities. The following are the major types of CSS installations ashore.

a. Force Combat Service Support Area (FCSSA). At the MEF level, the CSSE establishes a FCSSA. The FCSSA is established near a beach, seaport, and/or airfield to support other CSS installations and to provide support not available at forward installations. Normally the CSSE commander locates his command post in the FCSSA.

b. Combat Service Support Area (CSSA). The CSSA is a forward support installation having less than the full spectrum of CSS capabilities. It provides minimum essential support to the elements of the MAGTF in any one, all, or any combination of the six functional areas of CSS.

c. Beach Support Area (BSA). The BSA is one of the first CSS installations established ashore during an amphibious operation. Established by the LFSP to facilitate initial throughput requirements, the BSA may expand to include the full spectrum of CSS functions. It may eventually be dissolved, or it may become the FCSSA. In some situations, the BSA may be the only CSS installation ashore. In other situations, it may be one of several.

d. Landing Zone Support Area (LZSA). The LZSA is a forward support installation which provides minimum essential support to the helicopter borne assault forces of the MAGTF. It can expand into a combat service support area, but is most often a short term installation with limited capabilities, normally containing dumps for rations, fuel, ammunition, and water only; maintenance is limited to contact teams and/or support teams.

e. Repair and Replenishment Point (RRP). A CSSD normally establishes a RRP in support of a mechanized or other rapidly moving force. It may be either a pre-established point or a hastily selected point to rearm, refuel, or provide repair services to the supported force. Depending on the size of the supported force, the CSSD may establish multiple RRP's. Although the main body of the CSSD normally follows in trace of the advancing mechanized force, RRP's are normally in forward areas near the supported units' trains. This presents some unique command and control problems because CSS assets can be scattered over a relatively wide area. The CSSD can also select RRP's further to the rear of the mechanized force where they themselves can be resupplied.

f. Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP). A FARP is a temporary facility, organized, equipped, and deployed by an aviation commander. Normally it is located in the main battle area closer to the area of operation than the aviation unit's combat service area. The FARP provides fuel and ammunition necessary for the employment of aviation maneuver units in combat. The FARP permits combat aircraft to rapidly refuel and rearm simultaneously.

5. TASK ORGANIZING THE CSSE. Task organization, as defined by JCS Pub 1-02, is an organization which assigns to responsible commanders the means with which to accomplish their assigned tasks in any planned action. Required functions and sub functions are examined, and units are established that can best fill the requirements. A further description of the term is that it is a listing of all tactical, administrative, and service grouping together with the commanders of each. It is a visual representation of the organization for combat. During the task organization process, the CSSE commander can either directly or indirectly draw on a number of higher, lower, or adjacent units/organizations to tailor his command to meet a mission requirement. The overall task organization develops as follows:

a. Force List. The MAGTF force list is a listing of all organizations, units, and detachments allocated to the MAGTF for a particular operation or deployment. Normally the size of the unit/detachment is undefined and the units are listed under the major command that would provide the unit.

b. Troop List. The troop list is a planning document that displays a unit's structure with respective allocations

of programmed manning. It is comprised of the approved T/Os and the total projected officer and enlisted manning. The G/S-3 maintains a troop list of combat, combat support, and combat service support units allocated to the command for the operation. The troop list and the recommendations of staff members are bases for developing the groupings of the task organization.

c. Task Organization. The task organization graphically portrays the command relationships and the assignment of means for the accomplishment of the mission. The G/S-3 prepares the task organization after considering the recommendation of appropriate unit commanders. Its purpose is to establish groupings into which the command will be divided to accomplish its mission and to establish command relationships. These groupings may be shown, if simple, in paragraph 3 of the operation order. If complex, the task organization will be shown in a separate annex (Annex A) or just before paragraph 1 of the operation order.

(1) There are four standard ways of referring to units that are task organized.

(a) 9th ESBn. In this particular task organization, the 9th ESBn has no attachments or detachments.

(b) 3d Maint Bn (-). Whenever a unit detaches any part of itself to another for attachment, a parenthetical minus is inserted after its title.

(c) 1st Plt (REIN), Co A, 3d TSBn. Whenever a unit has been attached to another unit the parenthetical note (REIN) is placed immediately after the title of the specific unit receiving reinforcement.

(d) Co B (-), (REIN), 2d TSBn. In this case Co B has detached some of its company and received attachments from other units at the same time. The minus always precedes the reinforced.

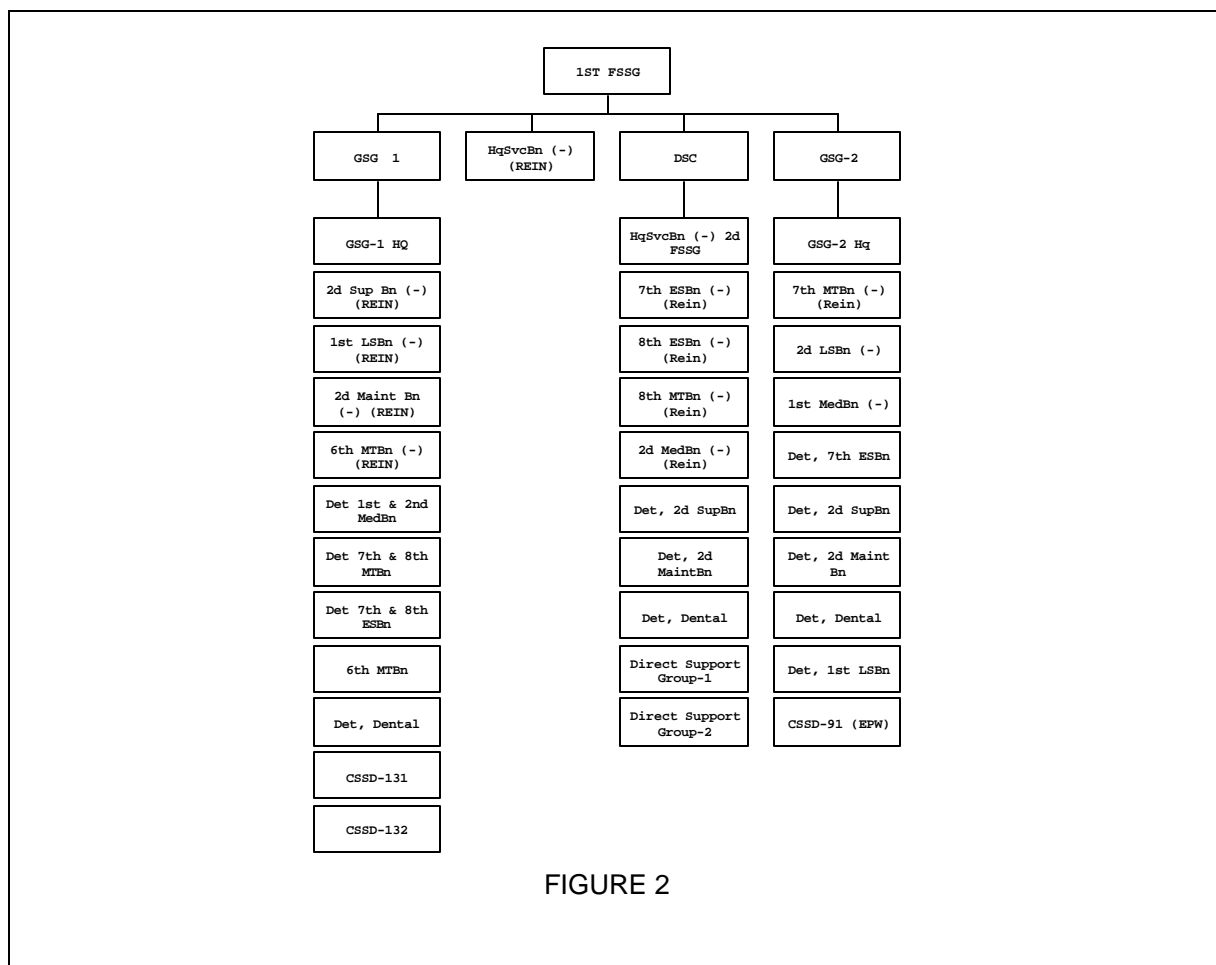
6. MEF SPECIAL TASK ORGANIZATION CONSIDERATIONS

a. The MEF has the capability to task organize any number of doctrinally identified CSS organizations because of its owned assets held by the FSSG and MWSG. Supporting a MEF; however, requires a broader scope of CSS temporarily task

organized units as opposed to those utilized at the MEU/CSSD level.

b. Supporting a MEF with CSS is not just the integration of FSSG and MWSG assets. The tactical scenario, mission, and geographical boundaries, etc. may cause situations where doctrinal CSS organizations cannot be employed. If this is the case, imagination, initiative, and common sense will dictate the CSS task organization of those units support the MEF. Integration of other services offers a challenge to Marine CSS planners and provides an enormous wealth of equipment, supplies, and personnel.

c. Figure 2 shows an innovative CSS task organization used during Desert Shield/Storm.



REFERENCES :

FMFM 3-1, Command and Staff Action

FMFM 4, Combat Service Support

MWCP 4-1 Logistics Operations

MCWP 4-11, Tactical Level Logistics

FMFM 4-2, Naval Beach Group

MCRP 5-12D, Organization of Marine Corps Forces

Joint Pub 4-01, Joint Logistics Policy and